

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 44641 (DTG 250227Z FEB 76)

(B) CINCPAC PA LNO (DTG 100250Z FEB 76)

(C) SECDEF DTG 242136Z FEB 76

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT RESPONSE (REF A)
AUTHORIZING ME TO GIVE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE "SEVEN PRINCIPLES" WHILE AWAIT-
ING FORMAL CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY.

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2. I SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, BUT AS HE AND MFA UNDER SECRETARY ANAN WERE JUST RETURNING FROM THE ASEAN MEETING IN BALI, HE WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE ME LAST WEEK. I RENEWED MY REQUEST ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, AND HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT SINCE CHATCHAI IS AGAIN OUT-OF-TOWN CAMPAIGNING, UNDER SECRETARY ANAN WILL RECEIVE ME TOMORROW, MARCH 2.

3. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTING ON THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES, ONE OF THE MOST URGENT MATTERS I PLAN TO RAISE WITH ANAN IS THAT OF THE "TURNOVER" OF REMAINING US INSTALLATIONS TO THE THAI BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 20. THESE "TURNOVERS" WILL BE PURELY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE AND ARE DESIGNED TO APPLY THE NECESSARY COSMETICS TO THE REMAINING US ACTIVITIES BEFORE MARCH 20. THE INSTALLATIONS IN QUESTION ARE RAMASUN, KO KHA, DET 415, AT CHIANG MAI, UTAPAO. AT RAMASUN AND KO KHA, THERE WOULD BE A FINAL LOWERING OF THE US FLAG, REPLACEMENT OF ENGLISH-THAI LANGUAGE SIGNS BY EXCLUSIVELY THAI LANGUAGE SIGNS POSSIBLY BEARING NEW INSTALLATION NAMES, APPOINTMENT OF A THAI "BASE COMMANDER", AND APPROPRIATE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS. AT UTAPSO, WHICH IS ALREADY A THAI BASE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A THAI BASE COMMANDER WOULD BE ELIMINATED AS UNNECESSARY, AND NO NEW NAME WOULD BE NEEDED. AT DET 415, NO FLAG LOWERING NOR CHANGE OF LANGUAGE ON SIGNS WILL BE REQUIRED, SINCE NO FLAG OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SIGN IS NOW VISIBLE.

4. THESE COSMETICS WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT TITLE TO PROPERTY, JURISDICTION OVER US PERSONNEL, OR OPERATIONS WITHIN THE INSTALLATIONS. SUCH MATTERS WOULD REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE THAI LATER ON. THIS CONCEPT OF "TURNOVER" HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE RTG THROUGH THE SAIYUT COMMITTEE AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS AWARE OF IT.

5. ANAN MAY BALK AT PROCEEDING WITH THESE "TURNOVERS" ON THE GROUND THAT AGREEMENT ON THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES MUST BE REACHED BEFOREHAND. HOWEVER, SINCE PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT SHARES OUR CONCEPT, AND SINCE IT IS

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IN HARMONY WITH THE RTG'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, IT HAS AN INEVITABILITY ABOUT IT THAT WILL MAKE ITSELF FELT AS WE GO DOWN TO THE WIRE, AND I BELIEVE THE THAI WILL ACCEPT THIS.

6. STILL NEEDED, HOWEVER, IS WASHINGTON'S CLEAR ENDORSEMENT. THROUGH CINCPAC PA/LNO, THE MISSION HAS SUBMITTED (REF B) A SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THESE VARIOUS

"TURNOVERS". (THIS SUBMISSION ALSO INCLUDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF MACTHAI INTENDED FOR MARCH 1.) IN THE ABSENCE OF APPROVAL OF THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND THUS OF THE "TURNOVERS" THEMSELVES, US COMMANDERS AT THE AFFECTED INSTALLATIONS, AS WELL AS THEIR HIGHER HEADQUARTERS, ARE IN SOME DOUBT AND CONFUSION AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON. THEY WILL NEED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS AUTHORIZING THEM TO PROCEED WITH THE "TURNOVERS". WHEN THEY RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS, WE CAN CHOREOGRAPH THE "TURNOVERS" WITH THEM.

7. WE SUPPOSE (BASED ON REF C) THAT CINCPAC APPROVAL IS BEING DELAYED BECAUSE MACTHAI DISESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDED AMONG THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, STILL NEEDS FINAL APPROVAL. THIS, HOWEVER, IS A SEPARABLE PART OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS PACKAGE AND NEED NOT DELAY APPROVAL OF THE "TURNOVER" ANNOUNCEMENTS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE NEED PROMPT APPROVAL OF THE "TURNOVER" CONCEPT DESCRIBED IN THIS TELEGRAM, ALSO TO BE DISSEMINATED TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SUBMITTED UNDER REF B. WHITEHOUSE

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